

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01028 111512Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 028809

P R 111336Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3668
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1028

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: CISCO II

REF (A) STATE 29903, (B) KHARTOUM 354, (C) JIDDA 796,
(D) JIDDA 978

1. ACTING DIRECTOR ASIAN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY TAHA DUGHATHER INFORMED US FEB 11 THAT THE MEANS
OF BRINGING CAMPBELL AND HARRELL TO JIDDA FOR RELEASE WAS
STILL UNDECIDED. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ERITREAN REP-
RESENTATIVES HAD CONVINCED HIM THAT, CONTRARY TO HIS
EARLIER FEARS, THE TWO MEN COULD BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO
JIDDA ACROSS THE RED SEA WITHOUT DANGER TO THEIR HEALTH
AND SAFETY "AS LONG AS YOU AMERICANS DON'T TRY TO INTER-
CEPT THEM IN THE RED SEA." THIS LATTER WAS SAID IN A
JOKING MANNER BUT WE ASSURED HIM THAT HE NEED HAVE NO
CONCERNS ON THIS ACCOUNT.

2. WE ENQUIRED WHETHER THE PROPOSAL TO REQUEST THE ASSIS-
TANCE OF THE GOS IN GRANTING THE TWO MEN SAFE PASSAGE
THROUGH THE SUDAN HAD BEEN ABANDONED. DUGHATHER SAID
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THAT IT HAD NOT BUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD

WANTED ALL OPTIONS PRESENTED TO HIM BEFORE MAKING A FINAL
DECISION. HE SAID ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH ELF AND
PLF REPRESENTATIVES IN JIDDA WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE
HE COULD MAKE A FIRM RECOMMENDATION ON THE DIRECT TRANS-
FER IDEA SINCE HE WAS UNWILLING TO RECOMMEND ANY COURSE
OF ACTION WHICH MIGHT ENTAIL RISK TO THE LIVES OF THE
TWO MEN WHILE THEY WERE ENROUTE TO BE FREED. HE ASKED
THAT WE BE PATIENT UNTIL FEBRUARY 14 OR 15 WHEN HE HOPED
TO HAVE ALL DETAILS WORKED OUT AND PRESENT A RECOMMENDATION
TO PRINCE SAUD. DUGHATHER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR GREAT
INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND SHARED OUR DESIRE TO BRING IT
TO A HAPPY CONCLUSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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